

Dry break, Seasonal comparisons, and Water Allocations

We'll be in a drier weather pattern for a while. For now, the frequent, cold, state-wide, snow-producing Gulf of Alaska storms will not make it to CA. Look instead, for a few relatively weak fronts crossing the northern third or quarter of the state over the next week, possibly longer. No rain is forecast for southern California over the next 10 days, according to the Global Forecast System (GFS) model. Virtually none is forecast for even central CA. Not much is going on, in other words, and we'll need a transition of some magnitude (5-wave or tropical convective enhancement or substantial undercutting) to put us back in the wet.

This season has been a positive and sharp contrast for Southern California. Here are some to-date seasonal rainfall comparisons for this year and last, as percent of normal for each water year:

	July 1, 2007 - Feb 4, 2008	July 1, 2006 - Feb 4, 2007
PALMDALE	127	8
SANTA BARBARA	156	45
BURBANK - BOB HOPE	150	12
LAX INT`L AIRPORT	121	19
LOS ANGELES / USC	159	20
LONG BEACH	135	16
IRVINE - JOHN WAYNE	98	16
RAMONA	143	25
SAN DIEGO - LINDBERGH	101	38

While still below normal, water allocation volumes are up, due to a wet January, and a decidedly increased snowpack. 2008 State Water Project allocations were raised on February 1 from 25 percent to 35 percent of requests. The allocation increase will boost State Water Project water for long-term contractors from 1,038,861 acre-feet to 1,457,283 acre-feet. For comments from the Department of Water Resources Director Lester Snow, please see the full announcement at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2008/020408swpallocation.pdf>

Author out for training next week. Look for next issuance week of the 18th. For those of you that were "go" on the idea of a web archive of this letter, it is planned, but office renovations and other projects are taking precedent. Stay tuned.

(EL)

Weather_and_Climate_News

Modify your subscription settings at

http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/weather_and_climate_news